

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Peace, John Jr., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 1627 N/A not for publication
city, town Wilton x vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27525

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville
County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William S. Rain, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

1-29-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Other: transitional Georgian/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Exceptional in both size and form, a massive chimney - built of a friable stone known locally as "gray rock" - dominates the John Peace Jr. House. Visible across contributing pastures and fields from the two unpaved roads that pass near the property, the chimney rises almost as a natural outgrowth from the stone-laced hill upon which the house is built. The intact Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style dwelling is one of the oldest properties in Granville County, probably built in 1801 as a carved chimney stone suggests, and from its chimney to its plan to its shape it is one of the county's most unusually configured properties.

The mortised and tenoned, three-bay wide house is one-story-and-a-loft tall and unusually narrow and deep for a local dwelling. It is lit by nine-over-nine windows at its first floor and four-over-four windows at its attic. Its steeply pitched, flush gable end roof sweeps down, with only a slight kick, over an original one-bay shed room and engaged two-bay porch at the front - the posts of which have been replaced - and over a later added shed ell at the rear. This shed-marked form is akin to that of eighteenth and nineteenth century dwellings built in North Carolina's eastern Piedmont and coastal plain. It is little found in Granville County during the plantation and bright leaf eras, when front porches were commonly left open and rear rooms were contained in ells, not sheds.

But for the flush-sheathing and three-part surrounds of the front porch bays, the exterior of the weatherboarded dwelling is simply finished. Its decorative glory is its chimney. Laid bottom to top in stone, the chimney is double-shouldered and exceptionally broad. Like the accompanying stone foundation, it was chiseled from the rocky dome upon which the house was raised. South of the chimney, a bit down the hill, stands an immaculately maintained family cemetery. More than a dozen stone markers of the Jenkins, Holmes and Strother families stand within its fence. The earliest - that of Dr. Joseph P. Jenkins (1830-1856) - predates the Civil War. The most recent markers are those of Fannie Gibbons Jenkins (1875-1967) and her brother, Joseph Peace Jenkins (1872-1950), whose name shows a continuity of family names stretching back to that of the property's earliest known owner. The property also retains a non-contributing, twentieth century, frame barn.

The plan of the house is unique in the county. The two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

principal rooms, a front parlor and rear room, are arranged back to back at the house's south or chimney end. A boxed stair runs along the north wall of the front parlor and a small bedroom opens off the north side of the rear room. The house has no hall. The front parlor - the house's largest room - and the two back rooms are adorned with Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style flush-sheathed wainscoting and raised, six-panel doors set in three-part surrounds. Angled corner hearths, feeding off the single massive chimney, serve the parlor and the room to its rear. Their original or early mantels are simply finished, befitting the basically modest nature of the dwelling.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

circa 1801-1865

Significant Dates

circa 1801

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Its massive chimney and substantial foundation organically rising from the rock-crowned hill upon which it stands, the John Peace Jr. House is significant as one of Granville County's oldest and most unusually fashioned properties. (See associated Property Type 1 - Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings) The house is also historically significant as a rare, early, surviving example of the dwelling of a modest planter. (See associated Historic Context 1 - Plantation Era, 1746-1865) It is notable for its shape, plan, finish and striking chimney. Its narrow, deep, shed-accented form, marked at its front facade by flush-sheathing and Georgian style three-part surrounds, is reminiscent of architecture to the east rather than that commonly found locally. Its two-room deep and broad interior, which includes intact Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style three-part surrounds and raised six-panel doors, is also unusual for the county. And most noteworthy and noticeable is its broad, double-shouldered chimney, which is built out of the same stone, known locally as "gray rock," that crops out upon the hill on which the house and its pastures and fields stand. Carved into an immense stone at eye level of the chimney is the legend "Thomas Collier 1801." Who Collier was is not known - possibly the stone mason - but the 1801 date is a plausible date of construction for the Georgian style dwelling. The house's period of significance does not extend beyond 1865, the end of the plantation era, because there are no buildings or structures remaining on its grounds that relate to its use in the post-Civil War years as a bright leaf tobacco farm. A non-contributing, deteriorated, twentieth century barn stands to the east of the house.

A construction date of 1801 indicates that the house was not built by its earliest known owner, Josiah Peace (1790-1864), who was only 11 at the time. Who the original owner was, and how Peace acquired the property, is not known. A 1776 deed [Deed Book L, Page 60] in which a John Peace, Jr. (1743-1821) purchased 225 acres of land on Fort Creek for 50 pounds may well encompass the land upon which the house was erected. The two Peaces were in all likelihood related - the census of 1790 shows only four Peaces (John, Jr., John, Sr., Joseph and Joseph, Sr.) living in the area - but their exact relationship is not known and no records survive of any transfer of property between the two.

The prosperity of Josiah matched the nature of the modestly refined dwelling, for he was the owner of six slaves at the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

taking of the 1840 federal census and of ten a decade later. Though passed through different branches of the family, the house is still owned by descendants of Peace. Josiah left the house following his death in 1864 [Will Book 22, Page 177] to his sister, Rosa Jenkins (1804-1881), and in 1909 descendant Sarah E. R. Jenkins willed it to her niece, Eunice Jenkins (d. 1974), and her husband, Lucius Strother [Will Book 25, Page 378]. They transferred it to their son, Vernon, who in turn transferred it to his son, its present owner, E.V. Strother, Jr. Though none of the plantation era owners are buried on the property, the contributing private cemetery does contain the remains of a number of members of the Jenkins family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with E. V. Strother, August, 1986.

Research conducted by Catherine Bishir. Located in Peace House file on record at the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at the Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 21 acres

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

Zone	Easting	Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian		
organization	Greenville County-Oxford Historic Survey	date	8/18/87
street & number	P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office)	telephone	919-693-1491
city or town	Oxford	state	N.C. zip code 27565

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	723390	4003610
B	17	723040	4003600
C	17	723030	4003340
D	17	723190	4003300
E	17	723330	4003440

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 723390 400610 on the polygon, along the west side of State Road 1627, continuing in a straight line due west approximately 1300 feet to point B: 17 723040 4003600 on the polygon at the south side of the stream. Continuing in a straight line due south approximately 900 feet to point C: 17 723030 4003340 on the polygon where the field clearing meets the tree line. Continuing in a straight line southeast approximately 525 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point D: 17 723190 4003300 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the west side of State Road 1627. Continuing north along the west side of State Road 1627 approximately 1425 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 21 acres that include the dwelling, cemetery and surrounding fields that have been historically associated with the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining acreage has been excluded because it is predominately woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In this case the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic integrity or historic significance of the property as a plantation era farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

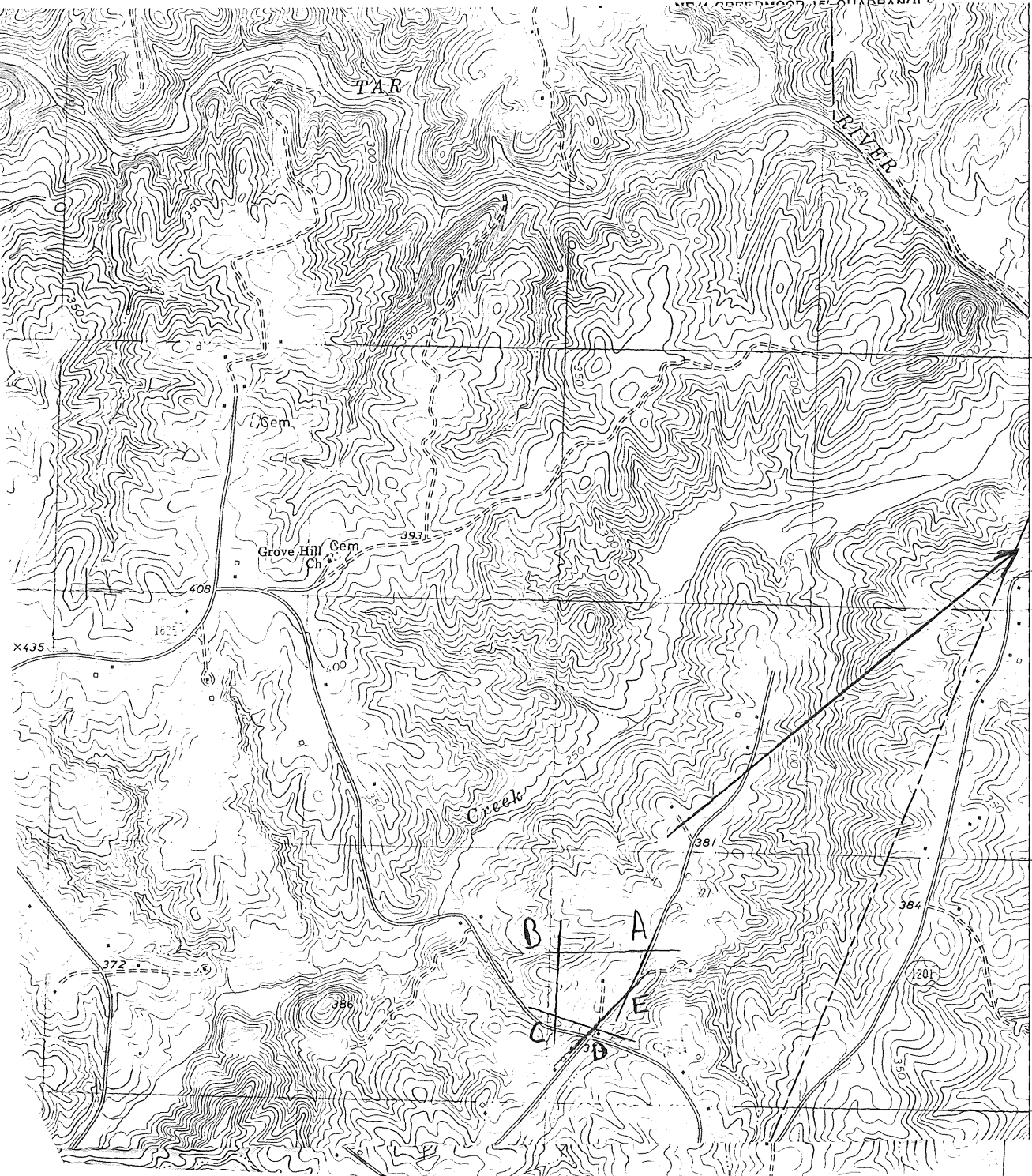
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling and farm clearing to its south and excludes property that falls outside of the owner's property line to its north. The western boundary from UTM Points B to C includes the dwelling and farm clearing to its east and excludes woodland to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points C to D includes the dwelling and fields to its north and excludes land not owned by the owner to its south. The eastern boundary from UTM points D to A includes the dwelling, farm clearing and non-contributing barn to its west and excludes land not owned by the owner to its east.

WILTON QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5356 IV SW
(HENDERSON)



John Peace Jr. House

To Wilton vicinity
Granville County N.C.

Quad: Wilton, N.C.

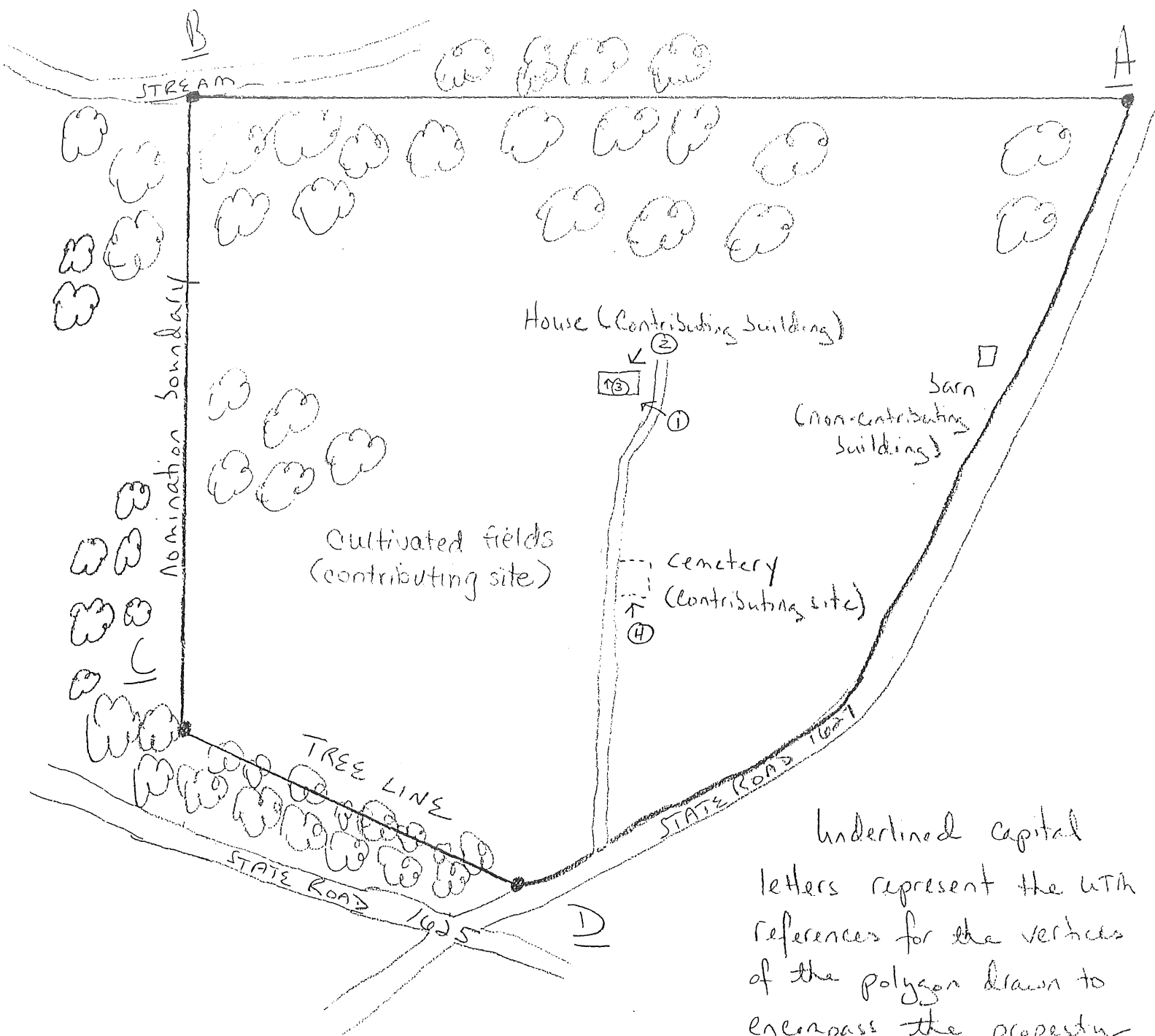
Scale: 1:24,000

Zone: 17

A: 723390
4003610

B: 723040
4003600

C: 723030
4003340



Underlined capital letters represent the UTM references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the USGS map.

JOHN PEACE JR. HOUSE
Granville County, N.C.

Approx. scale 1" = 200'

Approx. 21 acres

drawn by Patricia Esperon, July, 1987



